METHODOLOGY FOR TESTING SPREADSHEETS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention includes a method for testing a spreadsheet cell. Du-associations are

5   collected for the spreadsheet cell. The cell's execution trace is tracked. After the user

validates the cell, the du-associations that participated in the execution trace are marked as

executed. Du-associations for other cells that are affected by the testing a spreadsheet cell are

similarly marking as exercised.

If the user changes a cell's contents, the collected du-associations for the cell are

10   discarded and the steps of collecting test elements, tracking execution traces, and marking are

repeated. Cells that depend on the changed cell also repeat these steps.

After the user marks a cell as validated, a validation symbol is shown on the cell. If

the cell's validation status is later brought into question, the validation symbol can change or

be removed entirely.

15   The invention also includes a method for providing a user with feedback of the

testedness of the spreadsheet cells. The du-associations for each spreadsheet cell are

maintained, and the subset of du-associations that have been exercised is identified. Using

the numbers of tested and untested du-associations, a testedness measure is calculated for the

cell, which is provided to the user.

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